

Number 48

THE

March 2016

VETERAN

NEWS





National Association for the 40 year old and over racing cyclist

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE 2016/17

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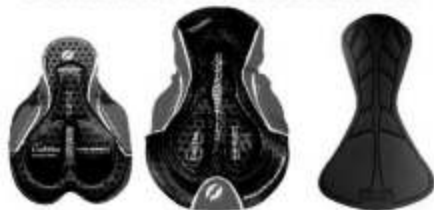
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THE VETERAN

THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

OF THE

VETERANS TIME TRIALS ASSOCIATION

*Founded in 1943 to promote cycle time trialling
for those aged 40 and over*

Number 48

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THE PRESIDENT'S PIECE



At the moment I am sitting in our campervan in a ski resort writing this piece. After cycling my next interest is skiing. The good thing weatherwise is that it may snow hard but at least the sun comes out and clear blue skies appear which I find sadly lacking in England during the winter months.

Another year has begun and all who are racing this year may well have ridden their first race, be it a time trial, hard riders, sportive whatever event one rides early season. All those dark winter months training are hopefully beginning to pay dividends. Good luck with your season all who are ridding competitively. To those of you who ride your bike for pleasure may the sun shine every time you get your bike out.

The Kent Group are looking forward to the National 30 this year which is unusually taking place on what we in Kent consider to be a fast course. We hope as many of you as possible will make the journey south. Certainly the Kent group are looking forward to welcoming you.

Carol Gandy



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MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Merv Player



There has been a steady increase in membership over the past three years. Despite considerable numbers not renewing membership each year, the figures for 2013 and 2014 were consistent. In 2015 there was a marked increase, the overall total being increased by 212.

Figures for the three years are as follows: -

	Single Members	Partners	Total
2013	2304	252	2556
2014	2326	258	2584
2015	2561	245	2806
2016 Jan/Feb	2630	249	2879

Analysis of 2015

	New Members	Aged 40	Deleted	Deceased
March	67	4	15	1
April	53	8	125	4
May	131	7	177	7
June	70	2	11	3
July	58	4	7	6
August	31	3	4	4
September	11	1	3	2
October	7	-	9	6
November	17	2	1	1
December	6	-	3	2
January 2016	45	5	13	7
February	43	3	10	4
Totals	539	39	378	47

It is interesting to see that riders who are just eligible to be accepted have joined, a total of 39, with 500 of other ages. Sadly 47 members have died during the year.

Honorary Life Members and Distinguished Life Members

In 2015, 32 members reached the age of 80 and had the required 25 years of membership. With the

addition of these members the total figure of HLMs now stands at 382 with 6 Distinguished Life Members.

In 2016, 16 Members will qualify, with a further 25 who will be 80 during the year requiring ratification as to their required length of membership.

Centenarians

During 2015 two members were added to our Roll of Honour by reaching the age of 100. These were Ike Delbridge and Bernard Hall both in Yorkshire Group. Sadly, Bernard passed away last month leaving just Isobel Campbell and Ike.

In 2016 a further three members will become 100 years old. They are George Joicey (North Group), Stan Chadwick (Yorkshire) and Roy Parsonage (Notts and East Mids Group). The Groups have been made aware of this and hopefully presentations and 'photo shoots' will be arranged when their Certificates are presented.

EDITORIAL

At the AGM, I hinted that I would be standing down at the end of this year. I use the term 'standing down' because I don't like the thought of resigning – it has inferences of protest which, of course, is furthest from my reasons for giving up so many activities that have brought me such pleasure over a large part of my life.

During the 12 years that I have been Editor of this magazine, the most predominant content of the Group reports has been the difficulty in recruiting members to take on the differing jobs which have to be filled in order for the Association to continue. Thus it is with some concern that I vacate the role of Editor but, it is a job which does give satisfaction and so it may well be that, from the almost 3000 members someone would like to volunteer—there is a Job Description.

Although I have been responsible for production from raw copy and advertisements, through to typesetting, proofing and layout to the final stage ready for printing, there are alternative methods, albeit costing more. All are described in the Job Description.

If anyone reading this is interested, don't hesitate to get in touch, between now and the March 2017 issue, there is plenty of time to get to know the details.

It was International Women's Day just recently and there was much written about the inequality of the sexes; even in the supposedly enlightened United Kingdom there is much evidence of discrimination. It is not perhaps widely known that until 1971, the VTTA did not admit women to become members. How difficult is it to imagine that situation today.

Nevertheless, the fairer sex did remain segregated for years following 1971 for, in spite of a different standard table, they did not compete on equal terms with the men. Many thought that had been rectified once the revised tables were drafted a couple of years ago, so much so that a change to regulations, removing women from segregation in Championships, received overwhelming support..

The decision was overturned at the AGM and, once again, just to prove their inequality, women will have their own medals. Not only that, their standard tables are to be reviewed. Perhaps it equates to a sinister move to make men as unequal as women, with a revised set of standards they could be awarded not only their 'sex' medals but win those for first, second and third overall. Imagine that!

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AROUND THE GROUPS

EAST ANGLIA

Mary Horsnell

What a surprise when opening the December issue of *The Veteran* we saw the picture of our esteemed Chairman, this was followed by the Chelmer Record Breaking women on the cover of the London East District 2016 Handbook. What fame!

The star of the show at the Eastern Counties CA Prize Presentation was Alex Eason, a relative newcomer to the prize table. He and his younger brother Roly joined the Chelmer as teenagers so at 44 he is a late developer and third generation club cyclist. A sign of things to come, came with a PB in the Counties 100 and a team shield win with Antony Stapleton and John Golder. He ended the season as Best All-Rounder with John runner-up; the Dunlop Cup and the John Norris Cup for best novice and best from a member club in the 12 hour, he also shared the Simpson BAR team trophy with the 'old firm', Golder and Horsnell, while the Group team 12 hour medals went to Eason, Golder and Cathy Wood.

The Counties Vets BAR, named Ham Trophy for a former President F Keehner, drew the most qualifiers, (23 riders competing) and here our heroes were placed John (6th), Pete (8th) and Alex 12th to take the shield for the 6th time. For those who wonder, this competition is not run on the present system; the standards are used but the plus mph method calculation is used. Winner here was Chris Nudds, CC Breckland, who was among those who did not attend the prizegiving; but among those present were Laurie and Margaret Elson, parents of Alex who had travelled from their home in Cumbria. Laurie, when a member of University CC, rode the Counties 12 back in 1955 and did 236 miles 1653 yards in his first 12 and was 9th of 84 finishers.

Turn the clock back to 1925 and Laurie's father and uncle rode the ECCA 12, placed 86th. A H Best and E Eason 96th with 185.5 and 182 miles respectively. Both rode for the famous Warren

CC, whose star man was Geoff Hunter – hence the trophy of that name, won this year by Mary and Jo, so they were interested to hear that the Eason family had known him well. Best mileage in the 1925 event was 214.5 by the Eagle Road Club's top man Harry Cross. It is interesting to note that there were 226 entries and 126 finishers.

Fred Fisher, Essex Roads and North Road fame, one-time President of the ELF, as is Laurie, covered 200.25 on his trike, best ever to that date.

Yes, the Chelmer girls have had a good season, but they did not prevent Sue Triplow from taking the Bates Trophy; it was very disappointing that she did not get a mention, when *Cycling Weekly* featured her club, Essex Roads CC, who together with Victoria CC share the distinction of being the only two survivors of the original ECCA clubs in 1910.

Had they not also heard of former BBAR Vic Gibbons, who was still setting records as a vet or Gordon Irons, former Chairman of our Group? Likewise, their article on Ipswich BC totally ignored their longtime President and founder of EA Group, Herbie Neville. One could go on: Eileen and Baz Bristow, Southend Wheelers, with daughter and granddaughter now successfully competing. It could be that the newer members of clubs which are featured know nothing about their history, maybe it's the way of the present day world, but it seems a pity, as these folk did much good work in the past which is still carried on.

Congratulations to John Golder who at the National meeting received the most prestigious award of all – the Bricknell Memorial Trophy for outstanding service to the VTTA. Well done and most deserved John.

Mark Arnold (Peanut) has proved to be a useful member, living conveniently near the popular E2 course. He will again be running the evening series of 10s. There are mutterings in certain quarters, notably the National AGM, that some

events are restricted to ECCA and VTTA members. I can assure these people that there are many folks for whom this is the only time they can get on the course, especially if they are older and/or slower. Whereas fast times can get you a ride on most courses, others are unable to improve.

Another moan is that money is lost on postage for those who are not on line. This is a negative statement – why not say “We make a big saving because so many members are **on line**” – think about it and please, think about sending me some news for this column.

See you up the road.

KENT

Ian Turner

The Group's Annual Lunch and Prize Giving was held on Sunday 21st February at the Weald of Kent Golf Club - the second time we have used this excellent venue, and once again it did not disappoint. The organisation of the event by Tom Morton was again impeccable and I am sure that everyone who attended found the occasion an uplifting experience. Our Guest of Honour this year was Pete Matthews who stepped in at very short notice after we had been let down by the speaker who had initially committed to us, but then found she had a commentating commitment. The carvery style food was again extremely good value for the ticket price and wine was generously included by the owner of the club, who was also a guest at the lunch and is a cyclist in his own right.

Pete Matthews will be familiar to many through his wheel building and bike engineering skills. Pete began road racing in the late 50s when he was 15 years old, and built his own bikes. He raced internationally from 1966 to 1972 and was National Road Race Champion in 1968. His specialism was and is wheel building and in this he has been truly innovative, developing his own aero spokes for example. What many won't know is that he is also an accomplished stand-up comedian, and it was this skill he enlivened the proceedings with, much to the amusement of the assembled attendees. We are very grateful to Pete for stepping in at the last moment, especially

as he had a long journey from Liverpool to be with us.

MC duties at the lunch once again fell to Paul Mephram who ensured proceedings, in particular the presentation ceremony, were enlivened with his vast knowledge of the Kent time trial scene. The usual banter and cross-toasting was much in evidence following the President's address. This year, thirteen prize winners were present, down from last year's eighteen but still better than 2014's nadir of ten. Ian Hodge (Southborough and District Wheelers) was the Group's BAR, but was not able to be present to collect his awards. Andy Meilak (Velo-refined Aerosmiths) was our most prolific prize winner, his haul of trophies and medals including the 100-mile cup and a Group Age Record for 100 miles. Simon Henderson (Thanet RC) completed the trio of main trophy winners, including winning the 85 competition and the Geoff Jones Trophy for the best combined plusses on age standard in the Group's three ten mile promotions.

The Group's programme of events for 2016 kicks off on Saturday 5th March with the ten-mile event on Q10/22 for the Mick Dansie Cup. Here's hoping for some nice Spring weather to get the season off to a fine start, although looking at the weather forecast we may be disappointed in that for this weekend!

Safe training out there and the very best to all for an excellent 2016 season.

LONDON AND HOME COUNTIES

Pete Tasker and Jim Burgin

At this time of the year there is very little news going the rounds on the grapevine, I know that many of our members are either out on their bikes getting the miles in or working out on the Turbo either in the garage or the spare bedroom.

The Group Lunch held on Sunday 24th January was very poorly supported this year by the members, only 46 sat down to a very enjoyable meal; last year we had 64 so a big drop in numbers. When I looked around the room I saw mostly the older members – few of the recent recruits. What they missed and perhaps are not

even aware of, is the special bonhomie that an occasion such as this can provide. As has been mentioned many times before, today's bike riders are not party to the social occasion where fellow bike riders gather in the 'off' season to renew acquaintances. Such a sad loss for them.

The main guest and Speaker was Mike Amery of the League of Veteran Cyclists who gave a very interesting talk on the LVRC, how it all started to give Road Racing, Track Racing, Circuit Racing, Cyclo Cross and Mountain Biking for the over 40 year olds.

All these events are broken down in to categories of five year segments so you may be riding in an event in which there are as many as six or seven age categories.

They promote many events during the year and have their age category champions both road and track, using the track at Newport.

There are ten regions in the Country so that all age and types of events are covered. All in all, a very interesting talk and he floated the idea that there could be some working together with the VTTA on some type of races. Master of Ceremonies for the function was Jim Burgin doing the job in his well-organised style.

Award winners in 2015 were: Group BAR and the most prolific winner, Ian Greenstreet, taking the BAR Trophy, Members Cup, Dixon Bowl and Don Byham Cup. Gill Reynolds, Martin Winter and Brian Moon won Team Medals and Bob Gilmour won the Sturt Cup with Roger Sewell.

A huge number of Group Records were set in 2015 including among those present; Bernard Lamb; Bob Gilmour; Gill Reynolds; Ian Greenstreet; Jane Moore and Mark Brooking.

Other award winners not at the Lunch were Liam Maybank, Peter Lawrence, Jim Moffatt, Lawrence Wintergold, David Emery, John Lacey BAR runner up and Katja Rietdorf Ladies BAR.

Guests included the VTTA National Secretary, Rachael Elliott, and Dennis Mills, past President of the RRA with his wife Barbara. Looking on were Distinguished Life Members of the Association, Sylvia and Jack Armstrong who, in the past, organised Luncheons with attendance

so large that tickets were rationed.

Containing photographs taken by Barry Quick a commemorative photographic album of the occasion has been produced by the Secretary and will be available to view at the Group's events during the season.

The Group are promoting five events during 2016 which are mostly 10s, with the Rocco 25 in early October, the details are:

Monday 2nd May 10 miles on the F11/10 course start time 1400 hrs.

Thursday 26th May 10 miles on the H10/2 course start time 1400hrs

Wednesday 20th July 10miles on the F11/10 course start time 1400 hrs

Thursday 4th August 10 miles on the H10/2 course start time 1400hrs.

Sunday 2nd October 25 miles on the H25/1 course start time 0800 hrs

Group members Brian Foran and Nicky Hunt had set a new tandem 30mile age record in the fast VTTA East 30 at the early part of October; well done to them.

Fifteen new members so far this year which is a good sign Details of those and other newsworthy and informative London Group information will be included in the supplement accompanying this issue.

Peter Tasker, who wrote almost all this report, recently attended the 75th Anniversary Lunch of the Norlond Time Trial Combine, which is an association that was formed in the early war years to give riders a chance to have a go at racing in the war torn years on roads around the northern side of London, not affected too much by the ravages of the war.

It was interesting to read the names of some of the trophy winners during the 60s and 70s, names that were household in that time who would have been at the front page of *Cycling Weekly* as we all knew it back then.

Peter continues: I heard recently about a local Club near me in Bedfordshire which hired the London Velo Track and had over 30 of their

members riding the track from 12 years old to one well over 80. It would be interesting to know how many other Clubs in the London area have booked the Track to get their members interested in that side of our sport.

Good cycling to you all.

MANCHESTER & NW

Jim Ogden

I feel that I should start with the bad news. Our Treasurer, former national treasurer and past 24 hour VTTA champion, Jim Gresty, North Shropshire Wheelers, suffered life threatening injuries when he was hit head on by a car near Newport, Shropshire, on Monday 18th January. He was airlifted to hospital in Stoke on Trent, remaining in an induced coma with brain damage for over two weeks. As I write, three weeks after being admitted to hospital, Jim is out of intensive care and has been moved to the neurological ward. However, injuries of this type take time to heal and our thoughts are with Jim and with Helen who has visited him every day from their home in Market Drayton.

The same week, my close friend and Altrincham Ravens club mate, Val Palk, finally lost his unwinnable battle with Alzheimer's, dying on Wednesday 20th January. His obituary is in this edition of the Veteran, together with that of Doug Shaw, Stretford Wheelers.

The weather so far this year has also hardly been good news and my touring bike with mudguards has come into its own, negotiating local saturated minor roads on a weekly basis.

Time now for a quick look back to the last event of 2015, the M&DTTA Christmas 10, held on Sunday 13th December and promoted again by Dave Fearon by Weaver Valley CC on a cold, damp morning. It was well supported with 78 entries including a fancy dress section. Rob Pullen, as a member of Ashley Touring Club, had switched very much to racing mode and was a clear winner in 23:47. Also, as fastest M&DTTA affiliated member, Rob will hold the Jim Broome trophy for a year. Three group members were category winners. First Vet 50, Nige Wood, Wills

Wheelers 24:16; First Vet 60, Greg Dancer, Stone Wheelers 24:50 and first Vet 70, Roger Wrenn, Maccelsfield Wheelers, 27:26. As well as promoting, Dave Fearon managed 25:15. First lady was Sharon Clifford WCS Racing Team with 28:17. Three young men from the Lancashire Road Club, Ben Trippier, Sam Walley and Alex Wisemen won the team prize in 1:17:13.

Johnny Decamps, East Lancs RC (of Batman fame last year) was fancy dress winner again this year with his skeleton and side-car. Johnny covered the 10-mile course, including numerous stops to be photographed, covered the course in 2:04:45 – losing weight doesn't always help you speed up!! The new M&DTTA president, Gordon Pickering, not only timed the event, but also presented the prizes.

To avoid what has previously been a clash, the cyclist carol service at Chelford Parish Church was held on Sunday 6th December and was well attended.

The Group celebrated their 69th Annual dinner and prize presentation at the festively decorated Middlewich Masonic Hall on Sunday 29th November. Details of the prize winners were given last time. The committee had previously decided not to invite a guest of honour, but rather to devote more time to the presentation of the prizes. This was carried out by a double act of our Secretary Brian Camfield and former Recorder Tony Farrell. They used a screen and projector so that an image of each prize winner was displayed as they came to collect their award. The new format proved to be a universally approved success.

2016 is the M&DTTA 80th Anniversary and was celebrated by a full house at their annual lunch and prize presentation held on January 31st at Middlewich Masonic Hall. As their retiring president Derek Hodgins says in their handbook, they are now offering more competition and awards at all levels than ever before and their founder members will be pleased with the progress time has brought about.

When guest of honour, Christine Roberts, came to present the awards, VTTA members were prominent amongst the winners. Neil Skellern,

Team Swift, as well as Association Best All Rounder, also won the middle distance championship and was their 100-mile champion. Denise Hurst, Congleton CC, was ladies champion in the middle distance competition and Joanne Harcourt, Stretford Wheelers, was ladies champion in the Association 50.

Jim and Helen Gresty, together with our group secretary Brian Camfield, were to have been our delegates to the National AGM on 30th January. With the Gresty's enforced absence, Denise Hurst attended with Brian. Our committee had previously decided that it would prefer Group teams of three rather than four for the purpose of National Championships. Brian proposed this amendment and it was carried.

There was a reminder last time about subscriptions being due to our Treasurer, Jim Gresty. Whilst Jim is hospitalised, Helen has bravely agreed to carry out the duties as our treasurer.

Looking ahead and on reading this, hopefully you will still have time to send an entry to Roy Deakins first event – a 10 to be held on 12th April on J2/3 ...and just remember there's a whole new year of age records just waiting to be broken, so good luck!

MERSEYSIDE

Geoff Edgerton

At our recent prize giving and presentation dinner, Jim Gresty, together with his wife Helen, was guest speaker and presented the awards. Unfortunately, the following day, whilst on a training ride, Jim was involved in a road traffic accident and sustained serious head injuries. Jim is at the moment in the University Hospital, Stoke. I will be visiting Jim and will convey your good wishes to him.

I hope everybody had a good Christmas and New Year. I must be getting older in the tooth. Whilst I enjoy the build up to the festivities, and it is a lovely time of year, I am not that disappointed when it's all over and things return to normal. But then I suppose what does normal mean. Many years ago, I was following a couple whose small

child was jumping up and down as he walked along, as young children do. His mother said to him to walk normally to which the father replied that to the child, perhaps he was walking normally.

The Mersey Vets annual dinner and prize presentation was again held at the Cheshire View, Christleton, and immense thanks must go to Phil Guy for organising it and persuading most of our prizewinners to attend. It is really rewarding to see so many there to accept their awards. Unfortunately, our main prizewinner, Arthur Winstanley, was unable to make it. Arthur and his wife were stuck in Dublin Airport with the plane delayed. As our group champion, Arthur usually replies on behalf of our prizewinners and is more than accomplished at this. However, we have to thank Helen Tudor, our ladies champion, for stepping in at the last moment to reply.

On to the standard awards, and it was good to see three of our older members - I hope they don't mind me referring to them as that - claiming their standards. Pat Haywood of North Shropshire Wheelers claimed four with his club mate Barry Ralphs claiming one and John Maddox rolled back the years with two standards. Other award winners were, Geoff Edgerton (one medal), Helen Tudor and Phil Guy (two Medals), Dave Smith, Ian Casson, Kevin Larmer and Clive Gudgeon (Plaque for three), John Flynn and Arthur Winstanley (Plaque for four), Phil Warburton and Ian Hawkins (Plaque for six)

Moving to the trophies, Arthur Winstanley claimed the Tom Johnson Trophy for group four distance champion as well as the Wally Graddon Cup for three distance champion on standard and the Bill Taylor Memorial Shield for group three distance on actual time. Along the way, Arthur completed his haul by winning the John Clucas Trophy for best on standard in the West Cheshire 30, the Dave Towel Cup for fastest 100 with 4.07.19 and the Bill Hanson Cup for best 100 on standard with plus 13:12. The Doreen Mahar Rose Bowl for the group women on standard and the Dave Swales Cup on actual time were won by Helen Tudor. Helen also won the Hilda Dover Cup for best woman on standard in the Rhos-on-Sea 10 with plus 2:14. The Harry Mahar Salver had a new

Dave Orford

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Dave is also a fan of Jim Goodwin (Sheffield Phoenix)

The first Pensioner (65) to beat four hours for a 100 mile Time Trial

name with Andy Hazell comfortably finishing ahead of the competition. Andy also claimed the Joe Brook Trophy for best on standard in the North Shropshire Wheelers 25 with a plus of 11:32. Phil Warburton capped a fine season by winning the Dick Corris Memorial Trophy for best on standard in the West Cheshire 50 with plus 23:10, the Colin Rutter Cup for best on standard in the Chester 25 with plus 11:06. Phil's haul was complete by winning the BW Bentley Rose Bowl for best on standard in the twelve hour with plus 67.93 and the twelve-hour cup with a superb distance of 262.61 miles. Kevin Larmer claimed the Leo Madden Trophy for fastest time in the West Cheshire 10 on the not so fast Farndon course with a time of 24:00, the Derek Ireland Trophy for fastest in the Rhos-on-Sea 10 with 21:49 and another fastest in the Phoenix 25 to claim the Brooke Cup. Newcomer to the vets, Richard Kay, made his mark by winning the WJ Smith Rose Bowl for fastest in the Chester RC 25 with 57:39 and the Gomersall Cup with fastest of 56:25 in North Shropshire Wheelers 25. Another newcomer to the group, Simon Higgins won the Eddie Graddon Trophy for fastest in the West Cheshire 50 with 2:02:10. Paul Holt claimed the Oscar Dover Shield with best on standard of plus 4:41, Phil Guy won the Ron Yates Trophy with a plus 2:24 in the West Cheshire 10 with Dave Short the Ted Fitzpatrick Shield with closest to plus 0:12. The George Butler Cup for outstanding services to the group was awarded to our retiring secretary Mo Cliff. Mo completed nine years in this role and it was a fitting reward for her hard work and dedication. Finally, the Lanterne Rouge for final place in the three distance competition was claimed by Ian Hawkins.

I am delighted to inform you that Mel Griffiths of Mid Shropshire Wheelers has filled the role of Chairman and we thank him. That just leaves us with the vacancy of Secretary.

By the time you receive this, the season will have started. My first race is the Chester Hilly at the end of February. Just a fortnight away, so I am expecting the weather to go downhill as they say 'big style'. I hope everybody has had a good winter and wish you all a safe and successful season.

MIDLANDS

Jeff Matthews

Combining the Annual Prize lunch with the AGM seems to have been a successful move, with more members attending both events. Held on 17th Jan at the usual venue of Kings Court Hotel, Kings Coughton, the event marked a changing of the guard somewhat in Group officials.

The lunch was the last one to be organised by Greta Spiers, long time stalwart of the VTTA having been both Magazine Editor and Social Secretary. Her role was taken by Steve Loraine. Paul Gould also joins the committee as Alan Colburn tries to return to the back benches. This was thwarted by his wife, Margaret who has now taken over as Treasurer. We are very grateful for the 'new blood' that has come forward, as volunteering generally is becoming something a little rarer.

The AGM heard that the group is in fine fettle, with over 150 members having grown for the last two years and repairing its previously precarious financial position. The success of that is down in part to the Points Series, now in its 3rd year with the new standards, it is attracting more qualifying rides and riders. The Group is also very grateful to Tim Wood of Echelon Cycles for his continued generous support of the prize list.

Guest speaker Don Parry, Chair of LVRC, addressed the lunch, with whom the Group promoted a joint event last year, and a further one is planned this. Don appealed to a sense of unity amongst cyclists and a need to unite our voices, particularly in relation to being heard by the administering and regulatory bodies that dominate how our roads can be used.

The highlight of the event was the presentation of prizes, with Lynne Biddulph (nee Taylor) winning the BAR. She is the first woman to achieve that in the group and is testament to the level playing field created by the revised standards of a few years ago.

Looking forward to next season, the Points Series continues with the reintroduction of age band awards and a team prize. Three open events are planned, the now traditional first fast 10 of the season in April, a joint event with LVRC at

Welland, later in the month and 25 in August at Salford Priors. We look forward to playing host to the national 25, on a course based on Alcester. Also new for the season is the collection of Midland Group age records, claims are requested from all members, initially for bikes at all ages and all distances. Steve Jenks is co-ordinating, and more information will be available soon on the website.

NORTH MIDLANDS

Alex Deck

First report of the season.

Timetriallists everywhere are coming out of hibernation and testing their pale legs on chilly mornings.

Our schedule for 2016 is available on the new North Midlands CTT website: <http://cttnorthmidlands.org>. We've already had one big change: our traditional season opener, the 18k, which for the last 20-odd years has been held around Ranby and Blyth in March, is no more. Sadly, due to the appearance of some new permanent traffic lights, we have had to find a new home for the event. Luckily, we didn't have to go far - our fast 10 course, the O10/3, was free; the 18k is dead, long live the new 10!

Our Treasurer and Meetings Secretary John Slater and I attended the National AGM in January and found it most interesting. It was great to hear that online membership will be arriving at some point in the future - that will please a lot of people. On behalf of the North Mids we'd also like to thank Jim Burgin for all his hard work as Chairman and Editor of *The Veteran* as he begins his last year in post. Get your CVs in now...

No photos of winners to include at this stage, so on the next page there is a great pic of Harworth & District CC from 1951 which I'm sure some of you will appreciate. A prize for whoever identifies the most faces.

As always, check our website for regular updates <http://vttanorthmidlands.co.uk> or follow us on Twitter at @VTTANorthMids.

NORTH LANCS AND LAKES

Dave Brown

Last season was the most successful for our Group for a number of years and certainly since 2012 when Pete Greenwood won the National Three-Distance BAR and 2010 when Frank Kerry took his third win in the National Three-Distance Competition. In 2015 the Group enjoyed one outright team win plus several other high placings at national level and these were celebrated along with the local awards at the Group's Annual Lunch and Prize Presentation in early January.

The Luncheon itself was its usual enjoyable get-together with Guest of Honour John Morgan handing over the hard won awards assisted with our Recorder Richard Taylor who has also taken on the Group Chairman role. Master of Ceremonies was nevertheless still John Leach who had stood down as Chairman at our local AGM in October.

The winners of our local awards were given in the previous copy of *The Veteran* but since then we have received the national results which make very good reading for our Group.

Steve Irwin had led the North Lincs and Lakes Group to the overall Team win in the National Short Distance Competition which is based on Best on Standard over 2 x 10s plus 2 x 25s. Steve's own plus of 1:16:41 at age 44 (the plus for the 10s is multiplied by 2.5 to add to the plus of the 25s) gave him 5th place in the individual table and just ahead of Richard Bideau age 44 (+1:15:57) 6th, Mick Ellerton age 54 (+1:15:46). 8th, Pete Greenwood age 63 (+1:14:35) 11th, Mick Black age 68 (+1:11:38) 13th and Paul Fleming age 50 (+1:08:29) 19th - a winning total Plus of 7:23:06.

Steve had also finished overall 4th in the 3-Distance table and backed by Dave Hargreaves and Harry Haseley of the North Lancashire Road Club, took 4th overall in the Club Team table.

Steve had himself set three National Age Records for his 44 years with 18:30 for the 10, 47:08 for 25 and 57:46 for the 30.

Richard Bideau – resplendent in his Pendle Forest top – was applauded for his wonderful 12



HARWORTH AND DISTRICT CC—1951

NORTH LANCS AND LAKES (*continued*)

hour ride but also for his magnificent 100 that was later declared to be short and the event null and void. Richard's 12 hour of 309.28 miles was a new National Age Record at the age of 44 which gave him the local Ken Priestley Trophy for the biggest Plus – of 102.23 miles! There was another accolade for Richard when he was given 20th place in Cycling Weekly's own 'British Rider of the Year' ratings just behind Sarah Storey 19th and Alex Dowsett 18th.

Team Swift's Mick Ellerton and Pete Greenwood set three National Age Records between them in 2015 with Mick clocking two of them with a 10 of 19:26s and a 25 of 49:18 at age 54 with Pete setting a 63-year-old record at 25 with 51:18.

Most certainly the air – or water? – in the Burnley area was something special last year for their local timetriallists with Steve, Richard, Mick and Pete all living within 5 miles of each other! We can also add the 2015 CTT National 25-mile Champion not-yet-a-Vet Ryan Perry into that theory!

The Luncheon continues to be well supported but

not so the New Year's Day lunchtime get-together with just three members at the very welcoming Plough at Eaves this year. Our Recorder Richard has drawn up the list of Qualifying Events for our Group for the 2016:

Group Championship: the 10 events below of which four must be ridden to qualify with at least one of those 50 miles or longer.

Wed 13 Apr	VTTA 25	L2521	1300
Sun 24 April	Wigan Whs 30	L304	0830
Sat 21 May	Lancs RC 10	L101	1800
Sun 12 June	Border City Whs 50	L505	0900
Wed 15 June	WPRC/VTTA 25	L256	1900
Sun 26 June	VTTA 15	L153	0830
Sun 24 July	Lancs RC 25	L2525	0700
Sun 31 July	NLTTA 100	L1009E	0700
Sun 28 Aug	North VTTA/DCC50	T502	0800
Sun 04 Sep	Lancaster CC 25	L2524	0730

Trophies 2016:

Traders' Cup Winner of Group Championship
 Women's Championship
 Leading Woman in Group Championship

Dobson Trophy
Best Standard in either 25 on April 13 or 15 June
Paddy Maloney Trophy
Best Standard in Border City Whs 50 on 12 June
Crowther Shield

7th on Standard in NLTTA 100 on 31 July
Baxter Rose Bowl

Winner on handicap in NLTTA 100 on 31 July
Karrimor Saddle

Best on Standard in NLTTA 100 on 31 July
Ken Priestley Trophy

Best 12 Hour on Standard – any event
Team Shield

Team of three in Group Championship

Please note: Applications for the National VTTA
BAR 3 Distance or Short Distance MUST be
made through Richard either by downloading the
form from VTTA website or from Richard himself
when he will send a copy by email or post.

Richard Taylor 23 Heywood Road, Castleton,
Rochdale OL11 3AU or email:
rtaylor023@aol.com

Secretary Derek Black attended the VTTA
National AGM to support two motions that the
Group had put forward. It was agreed that there
would now be a VTTA National 15-mile
Championship from 2017 and also that the
National Committee would consider Standards for
disabled riders.

We welcome back two returning members in Noel
Healey and Derek Unsworth.

The Group lost one of its best known racing
members when Doug Baron died in November.
Doug was a powerful rider and popular member
of our Group for many years and even since his
move to live in Wirral he kept in touch at every
opportunity. My own first memory of Doug was in
1957 when I was just learning this time trialling
game and on the famous old Brock 25 course
Doug caught me close to the turn so I thought
that I will try and hold this guy back to the finish. It
resulted in me being summoned to my one and
only North District Council Disciplinary Meeting
for 'tucking in'!

An obituary from Doug's long term friend Harry
Colledge is later in this edition.

Lancashire Road Club members, and indeed
many other cyclists across our area, were
stunned by the sudden death at the end of
January of VTTA member up to recent years, Jim
Hall at the age of 81.

NORTH

Gavin Russell

This edition's report starts on a low with the
reporting of the passing of a VTTA stalwart,
George Hugill. Sadly, George was involved,
whilst out riding alone, in an accident with a horse
box near North Cowton in North Yorkshire on 21st
January 2016. Despite best efforts of paramedics
and an air ambulance attending, he died at the
scene. Police have appealed for witnesses.

The funeral, attended by a large number of
cyclists, family and friends was held at the St
Mathews and St Lukes Church in Darlington. A
moving and informative review of George's
cycling endeavours was spoken of during the
ceremony by George's good lifelong friend, Bert
Clayton. Although George, due to accidents and
illness, had not raced in recent years, he will be
greatly missed by the VTTA cycling fraternity.

Another rider in the wars, following a very
successful 2015 season is Richard Booth of
Hartlepool CC, who slid off his bike on a very
muddy lane whilst out riding. Although initially
suspected of breaking his pelvis, he has
confirmed 'luckily' it was finally diagnosed as
massive muscle/ligament damage in his lower
back, which will put him out of action until mid-
March, when he hopes to dispose of the crutches
and return to the saddle.

On a much more positive note, 55 people sat
down to an excellent luncheon at Hardwick Hall,
near Sedgefield in County Durham, to celebrate
the success of members during the 2015 season.
The VTTA trophies and Standard medals were
presented by regular Yorkshire visitor to the
luncheon, Jim Littlefair. It was pleasing to see
both new and old faces attending and picking up
trophies and awards. Although the local 100-mile
course had been deemed short and not eligible
for the national VTTA BAR, it was agreed by the

North Group's Committee that as all entrants for the North Group Competition had recorded times in the same event, that the times would stand. This has led to John Warrington of the Tyneside Vagabonds, a first year member, being awarded the North Group 2015 Best All Rounder. Richard Booth was recognised by being awarded the Three Distance Best All Rounder. Another first year rider winning and featuring in the top three of many of the competitions was Gary Hunt of Stockton Wheelers. As usual, the ever present stalwarts of the Group, Darren Gee and Steve Fullerton continued to be present in the championship results. Thanks were extended to Ruth Crossley for her organising of the luncheon and to Dave Oliver for his preparation and organising of the engraving of trophies and other awards and finally to Jim Littlefair for making an excellent job of presenting all the awards.

At the January Group Committee meeting, in addition to reviewing the imminent National AGM's agenda and proposals, it was confirmed by Ruth Crossley that the 2017 Group Luncheon has been booked for Sunday 8th January 2017 at the same venue as this year, Hardwick Hall. The cost will rise slightly to £22 per head. With unanimous praise for this year's meal and event as a whole, it is considered good value for money

and well worth putting the date in your 2017 calendar. It was also agreed at the meeting that the Jubilee Cup, awarded for the first group member on standard, will be included in the awards at the Group's 15-mile time trial, organised by Ruth Crossley on 4th June 2016. With regret, Les Dawson announced that he would not be continuing with the Group Secretary's role after the next AGM and would prefer a volunteer to come forward before that meeting to relieve him of the role.

Don't forget, to qualify for your 2016 standards, you must first be a paid up member of the VTTA and also have paid for standards prior to riding the events for which you wish to be considered. Group Treasurer, Paul Dawson will only be too pleased to receive your fees.

If anyone has any information they wish to be included in future reports, please do not hesitate to contact me on 01642 654419 or by email gavin_russell@hotmail.co.uk.

When we next report, we should have some results from the early season events which hopefully will reflect the hard work and training that has (or not) gone on through the winter months.



John Warrington,
of Tyneside
Vagabonds
and a North Group
first year member,
receiving his
Group
BAR award
from
Jim Littlefair

NOTTINGHAM AND EAST MIDLANDS

David Herd

The sad death of the NEM group chairman Joe Summerlin has occupied our minds since the last edition. Our thoughts go out to his wife Gail and family. Joe's funeral was well attended by people from far and wide and by those both inside and outside cycling. The committee are marking time on the work of appointing Joe's successor as Chairman and would welcome suggestions from members and those with interests in the sport on suitable candidates. Please contact our secretary Russell Gent if you have thoughts on anyone who could possibly fill the role of chairman.

The annual Luncheon and Prize Presentation was held at The Risley Park Hotel, Risley, Sandiacre and was well attended, with our President Bill Stanley acting as MC, Gail Summerlin welcomed the visitors and we are again grateful to Sheila Hardy giving the reply on their behalf. Our Guest this year was Barry Charlton from Swinerton Cycles who kindly presented the prizes.

The Prestige Points competition was won by Michael Wills, Hinckley CRC; Ron Hallam, South Pennine RC took the Bert Christian Memorial 25, the Ivan Mohan Memorial 25 and the Fred Smith Memorial 50. Colin Parkinson, South Western RC won the Joe Baines 50 and the Hermes 100 whilst Chris Ward, Spalding CC took the Jack Watts Trophy 25.

Colin Parkinson	South Western RC	+50:12
Steven Howgill	Leicestershire RC	+40:00
Kathryn Smith	Sleaford Wheelers	+31:25
Stewart Gregory	Nottingham Clarion	+27:38
Nigel Briggs	South Pennine RC	+24:23
Steven Boat	Welland Valley CC	+17:39

Kath Smith, Sleaford Wheelers CC won the Women's BAR with +31:25 and Ron Hallam, South Pennine won the Senior BAR with +77:11
The following riders received Standard Medals

Jill Morris	10 Miles	27:21
	25 Miles	1:14:20
	30 Miles	1:28:39
Alan Morris	15 Miles	36:32
	30 Miles	1:14:16

Stephen Howgill	10 Miles	22:00
Ben Waddington	10 Miles	24:30
	25 Miles	1:05:40
Mike Spurr	10 Miles	28:21
	25 Miles	1:11:51
Dave Pike	10 Miles	25:57
	25 Miles	1:05:39
Russell Gent	10 Miles	23:03
	25 Miles	57:59
Kathryn Smith	25 Miles	1:06:13
	30 Miles	1:27:45
David Smith	10 Miles	22:41
	25 Miles	1:00:03
	30 Miles	1:20:19
Ivan Waddington	30 Miles	1:27:29

The following riders received Standard Plaques:

Nigel Briggs	10 Miles	24:02
	25 Miles	1:02:50
	30 Miles	1:10:35
	50 Miles	2:04:08
	100 Miles	4:21:34
	12 hours	245.32
	24 hours	386.91
Chris Close	10 Miles	25:54
	25 Miles	1:09:21
	30 Miles	1:24:19
	50 Miles	2:24:44

BAR Plaques were awarded to the following riders:

Group BAR		
1st	Colin Parkinson	+50:12
Group BAR		
2nd	Stephen Howgill	+40:00
Group BAR and Women's BAR		
3rd	Kathryn Smith	+31:25

I was saddened to hear that a very familiar face around the time-trial scene for as long as I can remember, Keith Dalton, died last Autumn 2015 aged 75 years. Keith who lived in Hainton, near Louth Lincolnshire, was father to Cherry Valley RT time-trialist Ian Dalton and supported him and the team all his racing life, including the *Days Stage Racing* period when the team travelled all over the UK. Keith was a keen cyclist himself and

in his racing days was a member of Louth Spire RRC. As well as racing, Keith went on family cycling holidays in Yorkshire Dales, the Lake District and Scotland. He was employed as a Woodman and Forester on the nearby Heneage Estate, retiring in 2006. Most of all I remember him as a warm, friendly and happy man who will be missed. I'm sure the NEM Group would like to send Keith's wife Ann, daughter Amanda and Ian our sincere condolences.

I am also sorry to report that Dave Bates' wife Ellen died in October 2015. Ellen could always be seen supporting Dave at time-trial events around the East Midlands. Ellen was buried at Ashbourne on 20 October 2015 with over 250 mourners in attendance. Again our sincere condolences to Dave, who I know is back on his bike after recovering from his shoulder injury as a result of a cycling accident earlier last season.

Coalville Wheelers gave the opportunity to those wishing to stretch their legs in the early season 10, held on 09 February. The event attracted a large field of 98 riders. Senior Matt Woods, Performance Cycles, was fastest with 21:26; fastest Vet on the day was Julian Ramsbottom, Team Pedal Pushers RT, on 22:29 (+03:49). Barry Charlton, Swinerton Cycles, came in on 23:10 (+03:35). NEM Group members Alan Morris, 28:20 (-01:11), Hilary Johnson, 30:35 (-0:50 and Jill Morris, 33:06 (-03:46).

This has been a sad report to write; however, apart from the rain the winter weather has been kind to us. Let us hope we have some good time-trialling weather for the coming season and we all do some fast times.

SCOTLAND

James Skinner

The Ivy CC members turned out in number at the Old School House in Torrance and were treated to an excellent Christmas meal while also catching up with friends.

The Royal Albert Christmas lunch was held in the Pathead cafe, which may be the last in that venue as the cafe and garden centre is looking for a new owner. The Law Wheelers Christmas

dinner was held at Braehead, Forth, where 16 members and friends turned up under atrocious weather conditions

Rita Montgomery is making good progress after sustaining a broken elbow when a dog collided with her on the local cycle/foot path. Along with husband John, she enjoyed the Christmas fair and company of many friends at Aldenties Restaurant in Glasgow.

Another well-known cyclist to many of the Group members, Peter Reilly, was also on the receiving end of injuries – for which he is still receiving treatment. He was knocked down by a car exiting a car park: the classic comment being: "I did not see you"!

A total of 48 people turned out for the veterans' lunch and prizegiving at MQs in Bannockburn in January, where the food was of the usual high standard. After receiving his prizes, Alasdair Washington of the Caitness CC presented the rest of the prizes to all the worthy winners, culminating in the haul of silverware to multi champion Derek Stewart. Many thanks to George Skinner for organising the lunch/prize giving.

We also thank Mhairi Laffoley for presenting the group with the new Speed Family Trophy, for the 15 Mile Championship.

At the recent National AGM, the Group's nomination of Derek Stewart for the C.W. Cooke Trophy was successful.

Derek was also in the press recently having a two-page profile written in his Local Community magazine 'Midstocket Matters'. The write-up detailed Derek's history, of when he started cycling, his National Service, his working life, and his recent TV appearances. The VTTA was mentioned as Derek is known to some as 'Derek the Dynamo', although the best moniker mentioned was 'Dick Dastardly' as he is known to his pals in the Deeside Thistle CC. A copy of the write-up will appear on the SVTTA website in due course.

Brendan (McCabe) informed our secretary about Joe McCann's wife Tina, who was diagnosed in November as suffering from Motor Neurone Disease. Our thoughts go out to Tina and Joe.

It is with sadness that Scottish Group report the passing of David Stevenson. David joined the Group in 1966 at the age of 42 and in his first year achieved standards at 25 and 50 miles. A very much liked and respected cyclist, who spoke with a soft and reassuring voice, he attended SVTTA events for many years to give encouragement to the riders and chat to others. The Scottish Group extend their condolences to his son Andrew – also a cyclist – and the family.

Phillip Jurczyk's health has improved (he did not compete in last season's 24-hour event) and this is part of his email to our Secretary: --

"I have spoken to George Berwick a day or two ago and we hope to get out as soon as there is a spell of reasonable weather. We have spoken about doing a few TTs this year so I look forward to meeting you at one of them.

Best wishes, Phil"

The group wishes Phil a speedy recovery and all the best for the season ahead.

Our Secretary recently received correspondence from Drew Wilson, two times Scottish BAR and six times Scottish Road Champion who is promoting his professional mobile bike fitting system. Drew will travel to you outwith normal working hours and provide the bike fitting that could get you those elusive standards. Don't take my word for it. The results from his recent session in the Royal Albert CC clubrooms have been praised very highly, and can be read about on the Royal Albert face book page. Check out www.visualbikefit.com for more details.

Racing

Last year's very successful West of Scotland Time Trial League, organised by the Paisley Velo team of Stevie Blom and Willie Cosh is moving its organisation to CTT (Cycling Time Trials), who have recently incorporated a Scottish region.

The racing calendar and other information can be found at www.cyclingtimetrials.org.uk

If you check their open events calendar, at present the five Scottish events listed include four ten mile events and the Boomerang Trophy on the 27th August with thanks going the VC Glasgow South for organising this event.

As we go to print 33 Scottish clubs have already registered with CTT but as SVTTA members, if your club has not registered with CTT, you can still enter these events with SVTTA as your registered club. The CTT Scotland event secretary is Graeme Cockburn, Nightingale CC.

Going into print, we are entering the weekend of the Icebreaker TTT, the first TT of the season, so good luck to all competing in this, and all events this year.

When this magazine drops through your door, we should be over a dozen events into the season, including two of the Fife midweek series.

Sunday the 17th April will be the second running of the SVTTA 15 organised by Davie Millar on the new Cambusbarron course. If you're not out there chasing your 15 Mile Standard, come along, watch the race, and help out.

Soon on the CTT calendar is the Jason Macintyre 10 Mile Memorial TT, announced for the 24th April. Bob Taylor is organising this event on the Westferry course and with a 9am start and only £8 entry, this event will be well attended.

The Scottish group welcomes the following new members.

Brian & Jennifer Nicol from Prestwick, Brian rides for Ayr Roads CC and Jennifer for Fullarton Wheelers, both have been racing for years and the Scottish group welcomes them both.

Another new couple, Mrs Jenny Shanley becomes takes out a membership, joining her husband George. Previously a solo member, George is now joined by his wife Jenny, both for Kinross CC.

James Wrapson from Crossgates, Cowdenbeath: Dunfermline CC must mean business as he has paid for Standards. as has Craig Buchanan from Dalgety Bay, Dunfermline CC.

The group also welcomes two Honorary Life Members in JJ Harris, and David Mitchell of Paisley.

If readers have any information, news, or gossip, get in touch at jamesmskinner@hotmail.com or INFO@SVTTA.ORG.UK

SOUTH WALES

Barry Williams

I guess the weather is a never ending topic in UK and especially for South Wales, situated as it is in a geographic enclave on the Bristol Channel, with the rain and wind from a south- westerly direction, constantly dumping volumes of water on us retired cyclists. Amazingly, since January 1st, between a few weather respites, I have clocked up 600 bike miles splashing through the Vale of Glamorgan farm lanes while testing a new Ultegra equipped Focus bike, with hydraulic disc brakes - I have to say, these brakes really stop in the wet and by comparison the traditional dual pivot callipers are very hard work.

Back to January 1st and the traditional Cardiff 100 Miles RCC New Year 10. Organiser, Bob Jones, hoping for some daylight and also allowing for travel time for competitors, started the event at 1.30pm. This year, I think, was our best turnout with 22 entrants on solos and 10 pairs for the two-up plus one tandem. The weather was dull, windy with light drizzle, but surprisingly, only six no shows. For the solo rides, the fastest was VTTA South Wales member, Simon Wix with 25:43; two other members rode; Kevin Thomas 31:15 and Simon Kinsey 31:23, also not forgetting our organiser, Bob Jones, posting a respectable 30:29. Among the Two-ups, it was good to see Team Sky rider, Luke Rowe's parents, Courtney and Alyson Rowe, both joining in, but in separate teams as befits a happy married couple. Using the R10/9, St Athan course enabled us to hire the RAF Community Centre as HQ, an excellent facility for coffee, cakes and the presentation.

In mid-winter, not much happens; an exception, however, was the National AGM of VTTA at Kings Court Hotel on Saturday 30th January. I decided to make the trek to this lush fruit- growing area on the Worcestershire/Warwickshire borders to keep up to date with current VTTA activities. With organisations, money is important and VTTA net assets show a healthy plus £37,000 in their 2015 accounts. The principal expenditure is the Veteran Magazine, where postage costs are twice that of actual printing and production. However, I must congratulate Chairman, Jim Burgin and his production team for continuing to send this valuable information package to our members.

The general consensus of the meeting was the hope that our women members would feature more often among the prize winners. A resolution was passed for National Recorder, Steve Lockwood, to look again at the Women's performance standards. Overall, there were some 15 resolutions, mostly involving minor changes that are unlikely to affect the general workings of VTTA. The meeting was finished soon after 3 pm and those stopping over, including your correspondent, were able to book in to the hotel's very comfortable accommodation.

At dinner, there was Bob Jones and myself, delegates from South Wales, and 10 and 25 Champion, Derek Stewart from Aberdeen with fellow Scots Alec and Peter. I have often wondered where Derek got his power from, he told me he spent his working days as a deep sea diver with North Sea oil rigs; perhaps that's the best way to develop the heart and lungs of a winner. The next morning after breakfast we said goodbye to our Scottish friends, got the bikes out of the car and headed south into the Worcestershire countryside, taking a circular route around Broadway and Evesham. Returned with clean bikes, a nice change from the Vale of Glamorgan's muddy lanes.

My next report will be in May, by that time, our world of time trials will be in full swing – In the mean-time, safe riding to all our readers.

SURREY-SUSSEX

Tim Carpenter



First of all, I must apologise to Mike Morley (he of the soft top sport car and natty headgear). I failed to include him in the over 70 list sent to Merv.

This is a public apology and acknowledgement that he is racing and is over 70 – I thought he was my age so obviously the Bob Martins or other substances are doing their job. He rode quite a few events last year and knocked out some respectable times for a man of his age. *(Picture above taken at the 24 hour in 2014)*

We had a successful AGM in November and most of you will now know that Jon Fairclough is our Treasurer. He has set up on line payments so if you have not paid your subs, or for this year's standard awards Jon is your contact. Dave Pollard is our new Time Trials secretary having taken over from Dave Cox, and Dave is organizing the June 10.

We had a great Group Lunch at the Normandy Centre (Masonic Hall) in Horsham on 31 January. Gary Holder organized the lunch (another willing volunteer at the AGM) and brought along a tuba (it was silver, big and had a large opening at one end), which was used to draw the raffle. Dave Saffery was the guest of honour and gave an interesting talk.

Having had a good number of prizewinners last year we must have had one of the lowest turnouts; 7 of 47! Peter Horsfield, Dave Phillips, Dave Pollard, Peter Baker, Steve Dennis, Jake Dodd and David Shepherd collected their various awards. David Shepherd also started to take his clothes off at the end which got some of the ladies quite excited, but he stopped short of exposing any flesh as he just needed to remove enough to fit on his 12 Hour VTTA Champions jersey.

The Sportsman's trophy (or should that be sports person's?) was awarded to Sue and Dave Cox. I put Sue first because without her Dave could not do half that he does. Sue has provided refreshments at local events and drives Dave

around so a big and well-deserved thanks to them both.

Just a quick reminder of the Group events this year and note the ESCA 50 and 100 are earlier. Also note there is an error on page 154 of the CTT handbook. The date at the top of the page should be 4 June not 1 June

The Group committee meeting will be held on 4 June after the Group 10.

Don't forget you can keep up to date with the Group website at www.surreysussexvttta.org.uk

4 June	Group 10	Dave Pollard 2 Harison Road, Seaford, BN25 3PN
5 June	Group 30 incorporated in Lewes Wanderers event	Simon Yates Old Stables Crowborough Hill, Crowborough TN6 2HL 01892 655786
19 June	Group 50 Incorporated in ESCA event	Sam Dix 11 Woodlands Close Uckfield., East Sussex TN22 1TS 07841 197342
10 July	Group 100 incorporated in ESCA event	Bob Harber 51 Church Lane, Upper Beeding, Steyning West Sussex BN44 3HP 01903 879598
21 Aug	Group 25 Incorporated in BEC CC event	K Butler 33 Clyde Avenue Sanderstead, Surrey CR2 9ND 020 8657 4921
21 Aug	12 Hour Incorporated in KCA event	Esther Carpenter 10 Maplehurst Road Baldslow St. Leonards on Sea TN37 7NA 01424 751581
18 Sep	Group 25	Keith Wilkinson Croft House Chapel Road Smallfield Horley RH6 9JH 01342 842792

WESSEX

Peter Warhurst

The Group's prize presentation lunch was held on 21 February and was made memorable by the attendance of the VTTA national general secretary, Rachael Elliott, as guest of honour.

For most of us this was our first meeting with Rachael and I am sure that all were taken aback to discover that she is a most attractive young (a year or two to go before she qualifies by age to become a VTTA member) woman and by her stunning personality. In his introduction to her talk I thought I heard the Chairman say that Rachael had established a new CTT women's competition record at 30 miles in 2015, with a time of 1:03:39. I thought that I must have misheard this but on getting home checked the new CTT handbook to find that DCB had got it right.

Rachael gave an interesting talk, mentioning that, even with her limited experience of such things, she is taking on the organiser's role for each of the VTTA Championships this year. Brave indeed; and I reckon that most potential competitors are glad to know that she is too young to enter the events.

We heard that Rachael is both a violinist and pianist of much skill and repute, being the lead violinist of the orchestra for which she plays. Rachael regretted that she has yet to find a method to combine turbo training with violin practice but is working on it. With a general secretary of this calibre the VTTA is surely in good hands.

The lunch, held at a fresh venue in Chandlers Ford, was its usual friendly successful affair, only slightly marred by the absence of about half of the award winners. We like to think that they were out training to bring the Group fresh honours. It is vastly to the credit of our new recorder, Claire Newman, that she handled so adroitly what I am sure was a record number of individual entries in the various competitions; including no less than 74 individual standard awards. A glance at the National competitions tables shows a goodly proportion of Wessex riders in prominent positions.

Sadly, the year has been marred by the death of

too many of our prominent members, with the recent passing of two more in Terry Jeffries (New Forest CC) and Martin Winter 1934-2016 (Farnborough & Camberley CC). An obituary for Terry follows on page?

Because of winter holidays I have been unable to locate a writer of an obituary for Martin. However, I have done some research and find that he was truly a VTTA giant at both Wessex and National level.

He started with Group age records at age 46 with 57:11 for a 25, followed by 4:20:01 for a 100 and 245.7 miles for a 12. At age 48 his age records were 23:24, 57:10; 1:13:19, 1:58:20 and 4:20:58. By age 55 he had got his 100 age record down to 4:06:29, meantime riding 258 miles for age 53 record. As an aside, he was Wessex Group BAR champion for the six years from 1984 until 1989.

In 1990 he turned his vast talent to riding tandem, taking many National and Wessex records at sundry distances and with a variety of stokers, including Edwin Green, Bill Hendry and Ron Dare.

Such was Martin's prowess that seven of his National, and 23 of his Wessex, age records remain unbeaten. What a rider!

WEST

Brian Griffiths

After a very wet and windy Winter we are now emerging into Spring with the annual hopes and aspirations for the season ahead, coming to the fore.

Many will have made good use of their turbo trainers or they may have even used more sophisticated home trainers with power meters and other such modern training aids. Science is playing an increasing part in our approach to preparing ourselves than it ever used to, but it does seem to produce the right results if applied properly.

Early in December George Keene, one of our older and still racing enthusiasts at 83, was knocked off his bike on the Bristol to Bath Cycle path by a large dog. This caused him to sustain quite serious injuries including a very bad pelvic

fracture. He suffered an uncomfortable time in hospital (don't we all) but has now returned home to recover. It's a very difficult period for George but fortunately he still remains very positive. He was pleased to announce that he has at last managed to make his way up the road to his local to enjoy his first pint of draft bitter in weeks. Incidentally, I believe that George was our fastest Veteran on standard for 2015.

Also on the mend after another serious incident on the Cycle path is Rob Pears. Latest un-confirmed reports seem to indicate that he is recovering well.

Time soon moves on and I feel that it is already appropriate to remind our members, and anyone else who cares to join us, to ear-mark an important date in your new diary. We are again holding our prize presentation on Friday 6 May at the smart new village hall at Seagry near Sutton Benger. Preceding this event, we have a 10-mile time trial but if you want to ride, and we encourage you to do so, you will have to send an entry form to our secretary Gordon at least a week before the event to allow for a start sheet to be prepared.

Following the prize presentation there will be plenty of time to chat and a good supply of glorious food for you to tuck into and enjoy.

As always Mike Jupp is desperate for material to put into our quarterly magazine! He is anxious to keep up the quality and would appreciate any contributions you can make. Surely you all have a story to tell or a controversial topic to get us all talking!

We have two recent deaths to report. Orrie Morgan who I believe was our secretary for quite a while in the eighties and nineties and who promoted a number of events for the group and was an accomplished performer in his own right, has died at his home in South Wales. Hopefully, more details will be supplied next time.

Likewise, we are sorry to report the death of Charlie Bland at about the same time. More information is still being obtained. Charlie was quite a character, serving in the Royal Navy, then in the police force and finally ending up building

bike frames at his home in Bristol. He won the BLRC National Championship and at one time I believe, actually rode in the Tour of Britain in the sixties.

With the Olympics taking place in the summer in Rio there is much interest being shown in our possible selections. It's good to see that Bradley Wiggins and Mark Cavendish are being given fair consideration but one has to ask will they be up to the mark at that level. Both are beginning to age in my view.

More and more of our older cyclists are to be seen out with motor assistance these days. Modern machines are improving to some degree and when you find people like Brian Robinson using one it does give then a degree of credibility I suppose. The idea of one hidden into the frame tubes is even more appealing for those too proud for conventional ones but at the moment this severely limits their range.

Fortunately, there is still quite a range of CTT events in the new handbook but certainly there is a problem in finding new safe courses. How much longer can we continue to find fast courses without travelling big distances? It certainly will prove a challenge in years to come!

YORKSHIRE GROUP

Brian Cowgill

As I write this piece, the Winter has really arrived with sub-zero temperatures and snow; this after week upon week of continuous rain leaving collapsed bridges and training routes cut in half. The electricity that could be generated from turbos in garages could light up a small town. Hats off to all those who have been getting the miles in on the road; despite the conditions, you still see guys in shorts - usually wearing the biggest jacket the world has ever seen!

The Reliability rides are with us or, should I say, races without numbers. By the time you read this, another season will be in full swing. Let's hope it's a good one. The Tour of Yorkshire will be here before you know it.

These days riding up and down the A168 now a

graveyard of speed, is to imagine when it was the A1. It was the fastest 50-mile course in the country, sparking calls from down south that it should be banned! Fifty-two years ago in 1964, the Boroughbridge was in its heyday, northern riders dominated. In its one single 50-mile event, the one competition record was broken four times. First to break the record was Derek Reay, Gosforth RC, who clipped two seconds off the legendary Frank Colden's record with 1:52:36. Next up was Mike McNamara, Rockingham CC, with 1:51:49; Mike went on to win the BBAR in 1967. The third to break the record was Peter Hill, Askern CC, who took another 10 seconds off with 1:51:39; Peter has won the BBAR aged just nineteen and went on to take up road racing, wearing the yellow jersey in the Tour de L'Avenir. Bringing the curtain down on this remarkable event was last man off Baz Breedon, Consborough Ivanhoe, who took things to a new level with 1:50:03; Baz, at the time, dominated the short distance scene, holding both the 25 and 50 mile championships, both championship and both competition all at the same time, a feat not equalled before or since. These days when you are grovelling down the A168, now the roughest surface in the world, to the old finish opposite the White House, it's hard to imagine what happened all those years ago.

Now to some sad news: Des Robinson, Huddersfield RC, elder brother of Brian, has passed away aged 88. Along with Brian, he was a leading roadman in the fifties. Another link with the past has gone. Our condolences go to his family.

On now to the Annual Luncheon: numbers were down this year to 59. Let us hope it doesn't go the same way as the Rideout Lunch, which is no more.

Our Guest of Honour this year was Gill Henshaw, VC Long Eaton. Gill has become something of a legend. This year in our April 10, which incorporated the VTTA National Championship, she finished ninth with 27 08 at the age of 81 - quite remarkable. In recent years, she has set multiple national age records; she makes football look like Andy Pandy!

Next to our Prize Presentation: the first award was

the Eric Linley Trophy for Meritorious Service to the Group. This year it was awarded to Mike Williams, Team Swift. Mike has run our April 10 for twenty years. He is the secretary of the CTT Yorkshire District and Yorkshire cycling in general is indebted to him. Many thanks for your efforts, Mike. The award was presented by our Chairman, Bob Tate.

On now to our prize-winners: one who couldn't be present was Rachael Mellor, Holmfirth CC; she took our 100 mile Trophy for best on standard; the first time it has been taken by a woman. Mike and Barbara Penrice collected their certificates for National Tandem age records at 15, 30, and 50 miles. Chris Goode, Yorkshire Coast Clarion, had a plaque for standards at five distances. 10, 25, 30, 50 and 100 miles. Andy Asquith, Bridlington CC, took plaques for second places, on time and standard, in our four distance BAR. Robby Krygsman, Team Swift, had set a National Age Record at 15 miles and also took the Pickles Cup as our 12-hour Champion.

On next to Brian Sunter, Condor RC; he was the VTTA National 30 and 50-mile Champion in 2015 and finished fourth in the VTTA National Short-distance Competition and second in ours. He set National Age records at 72 for 10 and 50 miles and finally he took the Yorkshire VTTA Andy Wilson Shield as our 50-mile Champion.

Peter Yates, Otley CC, was third in the National VTTA Short-distance Competition and too the Ron Bailey Shield as the winner of the Yorkshire Short-distance BAR.

For the fourth time, the winner of the Harry McKechnie Trophy for being the Yorkshire Vets Women's BAR was Karen Taylor, East Bradford CC; and finally, the winner of the F B Wood Shield as fastest in our four-distance BAR and also the Oliver Cup as the Yorkshire VTTA BAR for 2015 was Michael Cross, Yorkshire RC.

Also worth a mention is the Team Swift trio of Michael Ellerton, Peter Greenwood and Peter Lawrence who were the best club team in the national short-distance competition.

At this point, thanks must go to Geoff Homby, our Medals Secretary, who is standing down; he deserves our thanks for making the Prize

Presentation possible. So we have a vacancy – is anybody willing to take the job on? Also thanks to Mickie Hornby, our Lunch Organiser, who does a great job. Mickie will organise next year's Lunch and will then step down, so once again we have a vacancy for Lunch Organiser – you have been warned! Last, but not least, the raffle raised £120, thanks to Janet Tate, the raffle organiser.

Finally, a Best Wishes card was signed by those present for soon to be a centenarian Stan Chadwick. Stan has been a good supporter of the group over the years, making generous donations to the prize list of our April 10. Many thanks, Stan. And Best Wishes for your upcoming 100th Birthday.

So that was our Lunch; will it continue?

The day after the Lunch, Janet Tate entered hospital for tests. Sadly, husband Bob, our Chairman, crashed on the Wednesday Wheelers run, fracturing his pelvis and ended up in York

Hospital with Janet. I'm sure we all wish them both a speedy recovery.

Someone else in hospital is Malcolm Spink, who is having a partial knee replacement; again a speedy recovery is required.

We have a new World Champion in Evie Richards, who won the U23 Women's World Cyclo Cross Championship; she broke away in the first lap and stayed away to beat the Belgian favourite who was riding a motorbike! All this, of course, flew under the BBC Sports News radar. Their fixation with half fit men kicking balls continues. Cycling golds in Rio may bring some brief attention.

I'm off back to the sun. Hopefully by the time I get back in April it will have stopped raining and blowing a gale. Then again -perhaps not. The racing season will be in full swing! See you up the road.



Brian Griffiths—West Group Reporter

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AGM REPORT

30 JANUARY 2016



In accordance with the changed system, the occasion started with eating and drinking – a satisfying way to move on to the Prize Presentation seven of whom were there to receive awards. (See the VTTA Facebook page for the pictures)

There was a shadow hanging over the AGM – no Joe Summerlin. Throughout the proceedings, one kept imagining they could hear that voice “Mr Chairman

Apart from Kent and Wessex, all Groups were represented.

The first item which sought a change to the rules for the Championships was the proposal to replace the team awards from clubs to group teams of four. There was some lively debate and, after being amended to teams of three, the motion was carried by 16 votes to 11.

The standards for tandems are to be adjusted as it seems, although separated from other categories in the Championships, the existing do not make realistic comparison with solos.

On the subject of Standards, the National Committee are to look into the provision of standards for disabled riders.

The proposal to introduce a Championship at 15 miles was carried with just five votes against it.

The move to 'link up with other veteran cycling organisations' was carried by 21 votes to five and the final change to rules came with the bid to award medals to the first three women on standard in each championship.

Discussion seemed to imply that the separate tables for women riders did not adequately take into account differences in performance and this was confirmed by a motion not on the agenda but accepted under the heading of any other business when 25 to 0 voted in favour.

There was but one change to the membership of the National Committee. Committee member Gordon Scott did not seek re-election and Brian Camfield from Manchester was elected.

In addition to the subject of women's standards, mentioned above, the opening-up of general discussion under Any Other Business revealed some opinions perhaps not necessarily representative of their Group members.

The absence of four Officers drew several comments that, whilst sympathising with personal circumstances which prevented their attendance, the provision of a report ought to have been made.

A voice from the floor opined that he didn't agree with the National Committee promoting four National Championships; suggesting that it was an intrusion into other's territory and appropriated marshals; a view not shared by those Groups involved in the 2016 Championships judging by the response from those listed for this year.

(More on the Championship elsewhere in this issue)

Amongst the points raised was one which noted the loss shown on the accounts, suggesting that an increase in subscriptions to counteract this should be avoided, advocating a reduction in expenditure. In spite of the resolution to increase expenditure on medals by a possible £500 agreed at the 2015 AGM, plus the possibility of a similar sum for the awards agreed earlier in the Agenda and even more for the promotion of a 15-mile Championship, some might believe this was, to say the least, a bit disingenuous!

Following the theme of reducing costs, other speakers turned to the cost of producing and distributing *The Veteran*. Emailing copies was mentioned. The Editor pointed out that 10 members had chosen to receive copies in that way – another speaker seemed sceptical of the information and implied the opportunity should be offered again. Another thought three copies a year instead of four would save money; presumably not taking into account that three copies would contain perhaps the same amount of copy as four!

By three o'clock it was all over for another year.

Somehow, the refreshments at the beginning, rather than at the end, seemed to reduce the opportunity to mingle a pity that



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DOUGLAS (DOUG) BARON

26th April 1932



Doug Baron will be remembered by Vets throughout the North West and further afield as a 'super vet' riding for Preston Wheelers/Sutcliffe Cycles from 1979 to 1984, turning out many scintillating performances, with team mates such as George Nowland, Jeff Barber, Gordon Smith and other Wheelers' luminaries.

Doug spent his early years in Marton, helping his dairyman father with his deliveries and working part-time at Sam Taylor's cycle shop, a few doors from where he lived. After finishing school, he trained as a cabinet maker (like another very famous North West cyclist!), a skill which helped him in his later career as a pattern maker in the aircraft

industry, working on the Hawker Hunter and other fighter planes. After completing his RAF National Service in 1952, he joined Cleveleys Road Club and was soon taking part in all club activities, touring, hostelling and the inevitable time trialling on the Brock Course. Although riding, by today's standards, a tiny, fixed 81inch gear, he was regularly turning out 60minute 25s, his best being a 1.00.01! His club rivals at that time were John Stott and Don Hacking, both sadly deceased. John was the first man to beat the hour in the I.O.M. and Don was a National Vets Champion, riding for Birkenhead NECC.

Doug was a popular club member, quietly spoken but very friendly, always encouraging younger riders. He was always ready to use his considerable 'cycle-shop' skills to help the less mechanically able members with punctures. He often helped the girls to switch fixed wheels around and refit mudguards, ready for the club ride to the Lake District, after the dawn start TT was over!

Due to family and work commitments, Doug didn't race much in the 1960s, but continued to churn out huge mileages to work and back. He began racing again in the late 1970s, when he joined Preston Wheelers, though still keeping his CRC membership. He started to go faster than before, despite being 20 years older and used his considerable strength to push much higher gears. He lowered the Wheelers' 25 record to 54.52 and in the space of two years, won 26 open events. Some of his most memorable rides were in the I.O.M. where he once won the Vets 25 in atrocious conditions by two minutes. On another occasion, he broke the 10 mile vets record, held by ex-pro Frenchman, Camille Le Menn, (winner of the Manx International 1957), also winning the event on standard; no mean feat for a 49-year-old using the old standards system, which favoured the older Vets. This was in the era before tri-bars, clipless pedals, disc wheels, carbon etc. The bike Doug used wasn't a world away from his 1950s 'road-track' bike, but he was now riding higher gears. The fact that Doug won so many open events speaks highly of his quality as a racing cyclist; the weekly evening 10s he won with monotonous regularity were a source of dismay to all the younger riders.

Doug stopped racing in 1984 and, after his marriage to Sheila, moved to Irby on the Wirral. He continued to cycle, visiting the Eureka and other cafes with his new cycling friends, but always found time to keep in touch with old friends from CRC and Preston Wheelers. He and Sheila would attend many social functions together, visiting the North Lancs VTTA, Merseyside Vets, Preston Wheelers, CRC and Fylde RC dinners.

In retirement, Doug and Sheila took a great interest in local history and made a collection of vintage postcards. Doug's other passion was traditional jazz, especially music from the New Orleans era. Doug was diagnosed with cancer in 2014 and sadly died on 25th November 2015. The news of his death was hard to take, particularly as all his life he seemed the epitome of health and fitness. Even in his 80s he could never be regarded as an 'old man', he seemed perpetually youthful with a whimsical sense of humour, always modest about his considerable cycling achievements. The number of friends he made was apparent from the large attendance at his funeral on 16th December 2015 near his home. Our sincere thoughts go out to Sheila and his family.

Harry Colledge

DOUGLAS SHAW

1937 – 2016



Doug first joined Stretford Wheelers in 1954 and started club riding in the October and made his racing debut in the very first Manchester District Christmas 25 held on the East Lancashire Road on the following Christmas Day. He was ever present on our club runs, annual cycling tours and hostel week-ends and also raced regularly until his marriage to club member Maureen and subsequent family commitments. However, he soon resumed club riding and not long afterwards was competing against the clock again, riding all distances from 10 to 100 miles. He joined the VTTA on reaching 40 and took great pride in achieving many of his standards.

Although he continued to race until well into his 70s and has his name engraved on many of our trophies, he is probably best remembered for his services to

the club. With help from Maureen, he promoted many of our open events and was always first to volunteer to marshal or help in the HQ at all our promotions.

Stretford Wheelers, his one and only club, awarded him life membership.

A couple of winters ago, on a club run, Doug and a number of club mates fell on an icy stretch of road and it was whilst recovering from his injuries that he was diagnosed with cancer. Sadly, his riding was curtailed to a degree, but nevertheless he was still present and assisting at all our promotions. A true clubman.

Along with his family, the chapel for his funeral at Peel Green Cemetery was full with many of his former work colleagues and his Stretford Wheelers club mates attending.

Our sincere condolences go to Maureen, daughters Lorraine and Debby and all the family.

Trevor Bracegirdle

GEORGE HUGILL

1933 – 2016



George died on Sunday, 31 January 2016 whilst out on his usual Sunday morning ride. He was involved in a collision with a horsebox and sustained severe head injuries and died at the scene.

George went out every day on his bike. He was a lifelong cyclist and a long-term CTC member.

I first got to know George in 1949 when we were in different clubs. George was a member of Darlington Bicycle Club and I was a member of Spartan Wheelers. George joined Spartan after a spell in the RAF. He was a very competitive club rider and time triallist. He rode all distances from 10 miles to 24 hours.

After the demise of the Spartan Wheelers, he joined the Teeside Road Club and rode with some success in their team alongside Les and Mary Dawson and was the VTTA 24-hour champion in 1995.

George did an extensive amount of touring, including Land's End to John O'Groats both ways in one long ride. He rode to Cape Wrath and also to rode to Lowestoft Ness and then to Aronamurcan Point and back home. He still found time to beat the hour for 25 miles on many occasions, getting down to '57' when he was a Vet.

George was a member of the Elite 300,000 Club, having amassed over 654,000 miles and at the time of his death was placed 6th longest mileage in the Club.

George lost his wife Doreen in a cycling accident on the Isle of Man in 1993 but he never got over the loss of his soulmate, Doreen.

I've been his mate for over 66 years with never a cross word between us. We would meet up every Saturday at Barton lorry park café for a coffee and a chinwag, it was just to put the world to rights!

George leaves a son, Alan, a daughter Anne, a son-in-law Dave and Beccie and Jade, his much loved grandchildren.

I will miss him.

Burt Clayton

FREDERICK JOSEPH SUMMERLIN

8 September 1932 –10 December 2015



Everyone involved with cycle racing would have been shocked to hear the news that Joe Summerlin had suddenly died. Joe had been an active cyclist for over 70 years and for most of that time had been involved in the administration of cycling through Cycling Time Trials, chairman of Nott's and East Midlands VTTA group and more recently the UK Anti-Doping agency. He was a member of Leicestershire Road Club and has promoted a large number of events in the East Midlands.

Joe and his tandem partner Russell Elliot still hold the 75/76-year age record for 25 miles of 01:07:25 ridden in 2007 and the 72-year age record for 50 miles 2:16:56 ridden in 2003.

As a competitive rider Joe rode trike, tandem and solo machines and at all distances including 60, 12 hour and 30, 24 hour time trials.

Starting cycling with the CTC, Joe also rode track, grass track and road races. Joe originally came from Northampton and was a member of a number of cycling clubs including becoming a life member of North Road CC, Long Eaton Paragon and finally Leicester Road Club.

Joe was always ready to support other riders including his wife Gail and he promoted and supported women's cycle racing. I know at first hand that he gave assistance to a visiting rider who was based overseas in the Trent Valley RC.

Joe played an active role on the Central District Time Trial Committee and joined the Board of Cycling Time Trials in December 2008. The Notts and East Midlands VTTA Group were grateful to the Chairman of the CTT National Council, Sheila Hardy, who delivered a moving and informed tribute at Joe's funeral. Sheila who was elected as Chairman in the same year, held Joe's knowledge of cycling, his experience of committees and how to get things done in the highest regard and they soon became close friends. Sheila said that Joe became a mentor, friend, someone to talk to and confide in. He always made a contribution to meetings and was not just there for the ride, wanting to progress and change things that he thought needed changing or moving forward. He was never afraid of stirring things up, sometimes controversially and mischievously but always ready to consider points that he had not himself considered.

Fittingly, Joe received the CTT Badge of Honour in October 2015 given for outstanding service to the National Council.

Joe carried out a great deal of unfortunate, but necessary, work with and for the UK Anti-Doping agency, travelling great distances at all hours of day and night testing sports men and women for all sporting disciplines but as in an advisory capacity in cycling. He nevertheless became a familiar face at many national events and raised the standard of drug testing in UK time-trials with the aim of keeping our sport clean.

Joe's funeral was held on the 6 January 2016 at Bramcote Crematorium near Nottingham. The Chapel was full to the brim with those wanting to pay their respects. Canon Gooding for Derby Cathedral conducted the service and gave a suitable address. Joe's son Roland paid his own personal tribute to his father. Councillor Alan Bexon gave the address on behalf of the Freemasons which Joe joined over 40 years ago and devoted much of his efforts in Lodge to charitable work.

As chairman of the NEM VTTA Group, Joe would conduct meetings humorously, but always in control, giving those present a fair chance to make their point.

Joe became ill and died very suddenly and our thoughts are with Gail and, from his first marriage, Joe's son Roland together with Joe and Gail's son Scott.

Joe had lived a long, purposeful and active life; those who knew and served with him on committees will never forget his deep and powerful voice, his ability to appreciate and acknowledge those who worked with him in a common cause.

Thanks and goodbye Joe.

David Herd

VALENTINE HENRY PALK

1930 – 2016

Val and I were born eight days apart in February 1930. Val on the 14th (hence his name) and me on the 6th. When I moved to Macclesfield with my young family after 10 years working in Malawi, I met Val who had recently returned to Bollington after a similar period working in New Zealand. It was 1972 and so we were both young Vets. Val soon had me made a member of his club, the Altrincham Ravens CC, and converted me to running Renault Cars which, as a mechanic, he was convinced were the best cars in the world.

The children of both families were encouraged to ride with the Ravens, some more enthusiastically than others and Val became 'Uncle Val' a part of our family.

We were both members of the VTTA and by the early 1980 the Ravens' three man teams had begun their run of championship wins. With team mates Graham Morris, Roger Little, late Pete Walthall and Ron Johnson, between 1981 and 2000, the team won 26 National Vets Championships from 10 miles to 50 miles and Val was in every winning team. Also individually he was National Champion at 25 miles twice in 1995 and 1996 and had been champion at 30 miles in 1993. Over that period his personal best times, all done on his 753 Henry Burton without disc wheels or tri-bars were a 21 minute 10; 54 minute 25; 1-9 for a 30; 1:51 for a 50 and a 100 in 4:04. He was acknowledged as a top veteran time triallist.

One club record he will probably hold for ever is his 24 hour ride in 1981 when he covered 432.5 miles in the Mersey Roads event. I remember him training for it when, during a week's holiday, he rode over 100 miles every day – mostly Bangor on Dee and back.

But cycling for Val wasn't all training and racing, he loved touring with his wife Anne. They had done tours in Scotland and one memorable time they saw a Golden Eagle in Glen Elg. On another holiday they rode the length of the Cambrian Way but their favourite destination was always Norfolk. Val loved his music too having sung in a choir as a boy and his favourite tenor was Jussi Bjorling and it was his voice heard as mourners were leaving the chapel.

Sadly, Val's racing and practically all his cycling ended one Sunday morning, June 11th 2000. The previous day, Val Roger and Ron were team winners in the championship 10 held that year on the Fosse Way, I was fourth man. It was an early start the next morning and Val picked me up at 4:30 am to ride the North Mids Vets 50. Val was number 54; I was number 56. After only five miles I saw Val lying in the roadside next to his wrecked Henry Burton. He had been run down by two young men returning home after a night out. They failed to stop. Although no bones were broken, Val never really recovered from his head injuries.

Val was a proud grandfather and last year his granddaughter Leah made him a great granddad with the arrival of the young Dillon Valentine Mellor.

Val and I both did our National Service in the Canal Zone; both had our wedding day in December 1956 and I have lost an irreplaceable friend. I know many people will have their own memories of a very special man. Our condolences go to his wife Anne; children William, Jonathon and Sarah and all the family.

Jim Ogden

TERRY JEFFERIES

1947-2016



I first met Terry at a New Forest Cycling Club club-night in 1988. Ross, one of his sons, was a promising junior racing member. Not to be outdone by his son, Terry decided he wanted to have a go at this 'cycling lark'. He got himself a bike and started riding club time trials. He soon got the bug and was keen to learn about the sport. For a couple of seasons I travelled around with Terry and another new 'young' vet to the club, Roger Hopkins, showing them the various courses in the South DC and further afield. We had some great fun, but with their times improving rapidly it was obvious that my advice and help had reached its limit!

In the early 1990s training with a turbo in conjunction with a heart rate monitor was becoming the fashion so the three of us started using this method and attempted to follow the 'bible' of the time, the manual written by Peter Read. Terry based much of

his extremely demanding training regime on this manual and his times in the next few seasons reflected the intense effort he was putting in : a 21:58 10; 55:49 25; 1:9:29 30 and 1:59:45 50.

He maintained this punishing schedule for the next 20 years and even in 2011, his last season at the age of 64, he could still record a 23:45 10 and 58:46 25 - times that some of us could only dream about! He was one of the most focused people I have ever met.

His wife Barbara, as well as being his most ardent supporter, had also been a valuable timekeeper with the New Forest CC during Terry's racing career.

Sadly, a serious back problem forced him to retire from the sport, which must have been a cruel blow to him.

However, not one to let the 'grass grow under his feet' he then returned to one of his other long-term interests, old vehicles. He owned a 1930s Austin 10, Austin 7 and a classic motor-cycle. With the Austin Seven he and Barbara enjoyed many runs and rallies with the Dorset A7 club until last year.

Early in 2015 Terry fell ill and a brain tumor was diagnosed. He underwent surgery and then other treatment followed, but to no avail. After a brave fight Terry passed away at home in New Milton on 27th January 2016 aged just 68. He had spent all his life in the Highcliffe and New Milton area and since the 1970s had co-owned a successful glass company until his retirement some years ago.

The chapel at Bournemouth Crematorium was packed for the funeral on 12th February, a testament to his popularity - business associates, car enthusiasts, cyclists, friends and family. A splendid cavalcade of Austin 7s and other old cars followed the hearse to the chapel - Terry would have loved that. Condolences go to Barbara, daughter Heidi, sons Ross and Mark and grandchildren Ruby, Olivia and Frankie.

Keith Mitchell

CHAMPIONSHIPS 2016

Date	Day	Distance	Promoted by	Course	Event Secretary
17 April	Sunday	30	NEC & Kent Group	Q30/2	Rachael Elliott
12 June	Sunday	10	NEC & Notts and East Mids	A10/14A	Rachael Elliott
26 June	Sunday	12hr	South Wales CTT National Champs	R12/16	Robin Field
03 July	Sunday	100	Manchester & District TTA	J4/18/100	Dave Fearon
23/24 July	Sat/Sun	24hr	Mersey RC CTT National Champs	D24Hr	Jon Williams
14 August	Sunday	50	NEC & London & Home Counties	H50/8	Rachael Elliott
21 August	Sunday	25	NEC & Midland Group	K33/25	Rachael Elliott

NEC representatives at the Championships not promoted by the NEC are:

Championship 100	Brian Camfield
Championship 12 Hour	Robert Jones
Championship 24 Hour	Alan Colburn

The agreed procedure in respect of the promotion of the 10, 25, 30 and 50 mile Championships by the NEC: is as follows

Entries to be received by Rachael. Either she or a member of the NEC to be responsible for checking membership, arranging the start sheet and its distribution. The preparation of signing-on sheets. Usage of NEC body numbers (and arm numbers if required). The production of the Result Board and the Prize Presentation. The distribution of the result sheet and of notification to the press. Receive all income and make payment and produce a final account of income and expenditure. Internet entry fees and other payment from entrants to be paid into the NEC Bank Account.

Liaise with the Group in which the event is being held to arrange the course Risk Assessment, Timekeepers and Marshals, signage and event headquarters. To advise on prospective caterers.

All helpers from the Group to be offered £30 in expenses and timekeepers £50.

Kimroy Photography to be booked for all four championships in advance by Rachael or other member of the NEC.



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LETTERS

The curse of DNS riders – some suggestions.

Dear Editor,

Isn't it about time we got our sport sorted out? What am I taking about? I'm taking about the selfish people who take advantage of the rest of us. Who are they? Well, they are the riders who don't turn up to ride events because the weather is "bad". Why should we tolerate such riders taking advantage and in effect sticking "two fingers" up to the rest without whom the events wouldn't happen?

It occurs a lot and particularly on the fast courses when riders enter an event far away from them (sometimes 100s of miles) but then knowing they aren't going to get a good ride on the day because it's going to be raining or windy can't be bothered to turn up and prefer to stay at home. And in my experience a lot of them also don't even have the decency to apologise!

The galling point is these people deny riders in the area an entry on their local course. Many years ago I recall more than half of a 120 field didn't turn up for an event on a fast Oxford course for this very reason. I would have given anything for a chance to ride it in any weather to improve my time but couldn't because of these people who greedily took all the places.

I believe a classic example of this was the VTTA National 25 mile Championship in July when only 61 riders took part from a field of 150 plus reserves and tandems. To me that was an insult to the event secretary and if those riders including Derek Stewart with his brilliant ride could do it why couldn't the others? I entered a 12 where the forecast was rain all day but I still rode it. (Fortunately with only 8.5 hours of rain!) Let's face it, if all the marshals and helpers adopted this attitude there would be no events with no one prepared to stand around for hours

for all our benefit - and without any reward except a cuppa and some cake.

So what can we do? Next season I believe organisers should charge a "special condition" of say four times the normal entry cost on the basis of returning 3 lots to those who do ride? In other words a non-refundable penalty for DNS people. I appreciate there will be exceptions to this for genuine reasons but at least it will penalised those selfish people who treat others with such contempt. Alternatively, in this digital age where we can easily identify these riders perhaps we could impose a restriction on them entering when it can be shown they have repeatedly done this to our sport's detriment?

Surely it's time to get rid of this long standing and accursed problem which affects all of us? Surely you enter to ride, not to **think** about riding if it suits you! Time for change and a radical rethink about this age old problem? Any thoughts out there on the matter?

Mike Jupp. Corinium CC.

Veterans' World Time Trial Championships

Dear Jim

The World Master's Cycling Federation are to stage the Veterans' World Time Trial Championship at St Johann in Tirol, Austria on 24 August. Entry forms from Harold Baumann, A-6380 St Johann in Tirol, Bate Postale 60, Austria.

Categories are Men – 20Km ages: 30-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70-74, 75-79, 80+.

Women – 20Km ages: 30-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60+

All riders must have a racing licence, either LVRC, TLI (Cycling) or BC.

The same categories for the Road Race Championship to be held on 25, 26, 27 August.

Dave Orford



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